Amendment No. 1 to SB1948

<u>Crowe</u>
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND   Senate Bill No. 1948   House Bill No. 1503*

by deleting all language following the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 14, is amended by inserting the following as a new, appropriately designated section thereto:

The bureau of TennCare shall seek an amendment to its current home and community based services waiver (HCBS waiver), also known as a Section 1915(c) waiver under P.L. 97-35, the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, for persons who are elderly or disabled. Such amendment shall include modifications to better address the needs of persons with traumatic brain injury (TBI) who seek enrollment in the HCBS waiver as an alternative to nursing facility care. Modifications to the HCBS waiver may include, but are not limited to, the expansion of HCBS waiver services not currently covered under medicaid or the TennCare waiver, also known as the demonstration waiver pursuant to Section 1115 of the federal Social Security Act, such as independent living skills training and comprehensive behavioral or cognitive rehabilitation services. Modifications to the waiver program may also include changing the definition of qualified providers of currently covered HCBS waiver services, such as case management services, to include entities with expertise in meeting the needs of persons with TBI. Any such modifications are contingent upon the availability of funding and the bureau of TennCare shall ensure the continued cost-effectiveness of the HCBS waiver in comparison to the cost of nursing facility care. The bureau of TennCare is authorized to engage in targeted recruitment or training of HCBS waiver program providers to enhance the availability of qualified service providers with expertise in meeting the needs of persons with TBI.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.